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Commission on the Status of Women
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Agenda item 3 (a)
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system

Andorra,* Australia,* Austria,* Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada,* Chile, Denmark, Estonia,* Finland,* France,* Germany, Greece,* Iceland,* Ireland,* Israel,* Italy, Liechtenstein,* Lithuania, Luxembourg,* Mexico, Monaco,* Netherlands, Norway,* Poland,* Portugal,* Republic of Korea, Romania,* South Africa, Spain,* Sweden,* Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America and Zambia: revised draft resolution

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolutions 45/2 of 17 March 2001 and 46/3 of 15 March 2002, Economic and Social Council resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001 and 2002/23 of 24 July 2002 and General Assembly resolutions 56/132 of 19 December 2001, 57/182 of 18 December 2002, and 57/300 of 20 December 2002,

Welcoming the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and its call for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Welcoming also the decision of the Economic and Social Council to establish in its agenda a sub-item entitled "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system",

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commission of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

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Welcoming further the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote a coordination segment before 2005 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system,[2]

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality,

Reaffirming also that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Recognizing that enhancing women's opportunities, potential and activities requires a dual focus, namely, programmes aimed at meeting the basic as well as the specific needs of women for capacity-building, organizational development and empowerment, together with gender mainstreaming in all programme formulation and implementation activities,

Underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system;[5]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by entities of the United Nations system as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, including:

(a) Formulating and implementing gender equality policies and strategies;

(b) Making efforts to enhance and integrate gender perspectives into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;

(c) Establishing or strengthening institutional mechanisms, such as gender units/focal points, networks and task forces, to provide catalytic support and strengthen capacity in sectoral areas;

(d) Strengthening staff skills and capacity to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes;

(e) Establishing appropriate monitoring, evaluation or other progress-reporting mechanisms to assess the impact of gender equality policies and strategies;

(f) Implementing programmes and other activities aimed at increasing awareness of gender issues at national and international levels;

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[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3), chap. IV, para. 4.

[3] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13).

[4] General Assembly resolutions S-23/2 and S-23/3.

[5] E/CN.6/2003/2.

(g) Increasing inter-agency activities within the United Nations system, inter alia, at regional and global levels as a vehicle for coordination, information-sharing and joint activities;

3. *Calls upon* those entities of the United Nations system that have not already done so to consider implementing these and other innovative measures in pursuit of gender mainstreaming goals;

4. *Invites* all entities of the United Nations system, in pursuit of governmental and intergovernmental commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming goals, to identify remaining gaps in policy frameworks and strategies and assess the impact of such frameworks and strategies, so that future programmes, capacity-building and institutional measures can be better designed and better targeted to achieve the desired outcomes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, towards this end, to include in his report to the Commission at its forty-eighth session on the measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", especially in mainstreaming gender perspectives in entities of the United Nations system:

(a) An assessment of the remaining gaps in frameworks for gender equality policies and strategies and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes of the entities of the United Nations, and proposals for addressing such gaps;

(b) An assessment of the role and effectiveness of existing institutional mechanisms with a view to effecting their increased use in delivering the desired outcomes on gender equality;

(c) An overview of monitoring mechanisms for gender mainstreaming that are currently in place in the entities of the United Nations system;

(d) An assessment of the impact of policies and strategies designed to enhance attention to gender perspectives in all policies and programmes of the United Nations system;

(e) An assessment of the most pertinent gaps in sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific information across all policy and programme areas;

6. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider deciding to devote its coordination segment in 2004 to a review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system.[2]